

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

Volume 18, Number 2



AN HISTORIC NEW JERSEY

Featured in this issue

- Memento of March 1870
- Vlack 17-87B with Maris 77-dd Overstrike
- More on Dating St. Patrick Coinage
- An eBay Story
- Spanish Coin – Its Role in U.S. Commerce
- A Checklist of Spanish Colonial Milled Silver
- For the Love of Colonials
- New Look and Feel for the CNL
- C4 at the Spring 2010 EAC Convention
- C4 Election News and Candidates
- Book Review – Vernon Medals



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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer

Dues are \$25-regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter); \$10 for junior members (under 18).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Ray Williams)

I'm writing this on July 4th, the Birthday of our Nation – an important date for colonial collectors and all Americans. I can't believe it's been 10 years since my first president's message, the time has gone by so fast! I'll have one more message to write as your president before you elect a replacement. C4 and this hobby have become an important part of my life, as they have for many of you. The glue that holds C4 members together is our newsletter – the beating heart of C4, and the arteries are your officers. Elections are here and it is your duty to vote. Please don't think your vote doesn't matter. This is the only thing we ask of you besides paying dues. A month or so ago, all those running for an office were asked to write a short article introducing themselves to the membership and they should be in this newsletter.

About 30-40% of our membership has had the opportunity to attend C4 Conventions and possibly meet its officers in person. The remainder has not. Do your best to make a choice to elect the persons you feel best will meet the needs of C4.

August (10th – 14th) brings the Summer ANA Convention in Boston. This year's theme is "The Birthplace of American Money." Doesn't that alone make you want to attend? There will be many exhibits and speakers that will be of interest to all in our membership. Also, on Saturday morning of the convention, we will hold a C4 Meeting. These are not boring business meetings but a time to share, learn what's happening in C4; it's a great opportunity to meet people.

The Whitman Coins & Collectibles Expo in Philadelphia will be held September 30th to August 2nd. I attended last year and had a blast. We're trying to set up a C4 meeting for Saturday morning before the bourse opens so please mark your schedule. The Expo's theme is: "Where America went to Make a Mint." I hope to see many of you there.

Now is the time to start planning for the C4 Convention in November (11th – 14th). If you have not attended one of our conventions yet, you owe it to yourself to be there. If you have, then I know you'll be back. Also, now is the time to consign to the C4 Auction. Have you changed collecting priorities? Don't hoard those neglected coins – let someone else enjoy them and gain funds to use for your current interests.

I attended the EAC Convention in Annapolis and had a wonderful time! There was a Colonial Happening on Thursday night where many in attendance shared their coins and had fun learning. Saturday morning was when we held our C4 Meeting. The rest of the time was devoted to the bourse floor, educational events and John Kraljevich's walking tour of Colonial Annapolis. There were a couple seagulls that appeared to take a liking to John but fortunately in their aerial bombardment, their aim was off by a foot (or less). It was a fun and educational tour!

I promised Syd that I would keep this message to one page, so I'll end by saying "Have a great rest of the summer!"

MARCH 1870 NEW JERSEY COPPER: A 15TH AMENDMENT MEMENTO?

(Buell Ish)

In September of 2008, I acquired a New Jersey copper listed in the “Love Token” category on eBay. Since I love New Jerseys and like Love Tokens, I was drawn to this coin. It started life as a Maris 48-g, a very nicely engraved and struck variety. On this example, the shield appeared to have been smoothed and then engraved “March 1870”. Obvious care and skill went into the engraving.



I spent time on eBay looking at all the love tokens that were engraved with dates, and something about this particular date stood out. Other than this coin and one that featured only the year, all indicated a specific day, which makes complete sense. Events such as births, engagements, weddings, graduations, and deaths, all happen on a certain day. Any such event would not be listed as a month. I was intrigued. What might occur in a month that someone might choose to memorialize? While a personal event, such as a trip, might occur in a month, but not on a particular day, I knew that that was a research dead-end for me. But it occurred to me that possibly something important happened in history in March of 1870. Just as someone might memorialize July 4, 1776, possibly March of 1870 was significant in history. Maybe something significant happened that didn't fall within the confines of one day such that "March 1870" would be the appropriate memorial.

I considered all kinds of public events by searching Google for "March 1870 events." I studied many, many hits, and I started to form a hypothesis. The first hit, Wikipedia, will serve as a good illustration. Under "1870," seven dates (eight events) occur in March and were listed (my abbreviations):

March 1 – Francisco Solano Lopez' last troops are cornered at Cerro Cora.

- March 4 – Thomas Scott is executed in Canada.
- March 5 – First International Football Match takes place (soccer).
- March 19 – Ohio State University is established.
- March 24 – Syracuse University is established.
- March 30 – The 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, giving blacks the right to vote, is ratified.
 - Texas is readmitted to the union following Reconstruction.
- March 31 – Thomas Mundy Peterson is the first African-American to vote in an election.

Note how both March 30th and March 31st relate to the 15th amendment, which reads in its entirety:

Amendment XV

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The power, clarity and brevity of the amendment are moving, especially in light of the verbosity of everything legal these days. Nothing presages a complete break with a past of slavery like the extension to former slaves of the right to vote. Indeed, many thought that this would never happen. With the passing of the three post civil war amendments {13th (ending slavery) and 14th (citizenship for former slaves) passed and ratified earlier, and this 15th amendment (suffrage)}, some thought that the abolition movement had accomplished its goals.

Indeed, the case had even been made that the civil war itself had accomplished the goals of the abolition movement, “At a meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society in May 1865, one month after the end of the Civil War, William Lloyd Garrison had called upon the organization to disband, now that its goal was achieved. (Frederick) Douglass came out against Garrison's proposal, stating that ‘Slavery is not abolished until the black man has the ballot.’ The society voted to continue the struggle for black rights, but many abolitionists left the movement. Fortunately, abolitionists were not the only ones interested in giving blacks the right to vote. The Republican party was worried that the Democrats would regain their power in the South.”
(<http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/douglass/part5.html>)

While the battle for complete racial equality continues to this day, March of 1870 was heady times for this movement indeed. The crown jewel, as represented by the 15th amendment, had been won!

I continued to investigate my hypothesis that this coin memorialized the 15th amendment. (I contacted the eBay seller, “polariscoins,” but he was a coin dealer selling a collection and could offer no additional information about the piece.) As I read more

about March of 1870, I uncovered other related events that took place throughout the month, as well as newspaper articles showing how and when this news would have been reaching the population. See this list, in chronological order, at the conclusion of this article.

President Ulysses S. Grant wrote, "A measure which makes at once 4,000,000 people voters who were heretofore declared by the highest tribunal in the land not citizens of the United States, nor eligible to become so ... is indeed a measure of grander importance than any other one act of the kind from the foundation of our free Government to the present day." (Special Message of the President, March 30, 1870.)

Just as Lincoln had battled for emancipation, it was the party of Lincoln and Grant that championed full legal rights for former slaves. And against the backdrop of Democratic party resistance, the effort succeeded with the passage of the three amendments and the election and seating of the first African-American Senator, Hiram Rhodes Revels (Republican from Mississippi). The abolitionists in the North knew that the accomplishments of the civil war might be largely for naught if the Southern states were governed by the same people as before the war. While there were setbacks to come, such as the Jim Crow laws, the 15th amendment appeared to put the power of government in the Southern states into the hands of a populace in which blacks were very well represented. Three states actually had black majorities. The abolitionists had much to celebrate!

The abolitionists celebrated and considered the goals of their movement accomplished. "Most reformers, nonetheless, hailed the Fifteenth Amendment as a triumphant conclusion to four decades of agitation on behalf of the slave. 'Nothing in all history,' exulted William Lloyd Garrison, 'equaled this wonderful, quiet, sudden transformation of four millions of human beings from the auction-block to the ballot-box.' In March 1870 the American Anti-Slavery Society disbanded, its work, members believed, now complete." (*A Short History of Reconstruction, 1863-1877*, by Eric Foner, Harper Collins, 1990.)

As I continued to read about March of 1870, I started to believe in my hypothesis: that this coin might represent someone's personal memento of the Fifteenth Amendment, or the broader concept of full citizenship rights for blacks. The abolition movement, the civil war and the actual passage of the 15th amendment on February 25th and 26th (House and Senate) of 1869 lead up to the year long process of ratification. This ratification process was being finalized in February of 1870 when the amendment was ratified by Georgia (February 2), Iowa (February 3), Nebraska (February 17), and Texas (February 18). While Texas theoretically put the amendment over the 3/4 of the states required hurdle, the process was complicated by the fact that Texas had not yet been readmitted to the union. But on March 30th Texas was readmitted to the union, making its ratification official. This made 29 states that had ratified the amendment (one more than the three-quarters majority required), which made irrelevant the fact that New York had ratified and then reversed itself on ratification.

Based on my research, I believe that the entire month of March 1870 was abuzz with news and events related to voting and political rights for African-Americans. The newspaper articles clearly indicated early in the month that the ratification of the 15th Amendment was a foregone conclusion. At this stage, I found myself lying awake one morning wondering why a New Jersey copper might be selected as the coin upon which to memorialize the 15th amendment. And then I was struck by something...a clue that I had missed earlier: all of the love tokens on eBay shared a characteristic that this coin did not. They all featured the removal of an entire side of the coin to create a blank slate upon which one would engrave. This coin still clearly showed the reverse of a New Jersey copper. The shield lines may have been smoothed or planed off, but the shield outline and the legend were still there.

This love token did not read "March 1870." It read, "E Pluribus Unum March 1870." Or translated, "Out of Many, One. March 1870." And that made me a believer.

Someone to whom the amendment meant a lot had searched out a fitting coin to memorialize it upon. There is not a better coin for this purpose! No other motto better encompasses the essence of the 15th Amendment, and no other coin so prominently features this national motto than the New Jersey copper. Clearly the coin would have been engraved after March of 1870. A few New Jersey coppers were still circulating as this article from 1876 indicates:

The New Jersey cents were probably coined in large numbers, and are found in greater varieties than any other colonials, excepting the Connecticut. As it is not at all difficult to obtain several varieties and dates, they being even at the present time occasionally found in circulation; they are the special favorites of beginners, and many a collector had his attention first attracted to the subject of collecting by finding an old New Jersey cent among his small change. ("The Coin Collector's Journal," vol. 1, 1876, p. 98. Thanks to Ray Williams for finding this quote.)

Once I had concluded that this New Jersey copper had to be a 15th Amendment memento, I started wondering about the person who made and carried it. And the most obvious question: might this coin have been worn against a white breast or a black breast. Clearly the movement that resulted in the 15th Amendment would not have succeeded had it not been pursued with so much zeal by so many members of both races, and members of both races had something to celebrate! While the skin color of this individual is unknowable at this late date, one thing is certain. Within that breast beat the heart of a true American, an American who believed in equality and the American promise. An American who was familiar with the founding fathers' hopes for a land where "all men are created equal" and the related Latin inscription, "E Pluribus Unum." Ultimately the color of the first owner's skin is irrelevant. For what is important is that the first owner believed in America and shared the dream of another great American:

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963.

15th Amendment related events and Newspaper accounts in Chronological order:

February 25-26, 1869

The House and then Senate pass the proposed Constitutional Amendment and it is sent to the states for ratification or rejection. Three-quarters of the states are needed for ratification. This is a confusing process as the count of states is changing, as the Southern states are being re-admitted to the union. In three cases (Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia), Congress even made ratification itself a requirement to be readmitted!

February 25, 1870

Hiram Rhodes Revels (Republican from Mississippi), first African-American to serve in the U.S. Senate, is sworn in.

New York Times, March 8, 1870

"Baltimore, Md., March 7. - Senator Revels of Mississippi, lectured to-night at Bethel Church, to an audience of 400 or 500 persons, one-fourth of whom were white. The lecture was chiefly on the improvement and welfare of the colored race. He earnestly enjoined education and economy, and at the close of his address said the colored people must be true to the country, to themselves and to the Republican Party. The Senator was frequently applauded."

Harpers Weekly, March 12, 1870

"Before this paper is issued it is not improbable that the formal proclamation of the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment will have been made." "Every citizen of the United States who has contributed to this truly American and humane triumph has reason to be proud. His further duty is to help break down the prejudice that must long survive the removal of the ban under which the colored race has lain in this country. No law, indeed, can remove feeling, but manly good sense can."

In the same issue, a cartoon portrays states that rejected the amendment as flies, which are a nuisance but not a hindrance to the black man casting his vote.



March 16, 1870

First Black Senator, Hiram R. Revels made his first official speech before the US Senate.

Chicago Tribune, March 17, 1870

The Chicago Tribune reported that on February 25 – Hiram Rhodes Revels (Republican from Mississippi) became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate. They erroneously, yet enthusiastically announced that Revels had taken Jefferson Davis's seat.

March 28, 1870

Jonathon S. Wright becomes the first Black State Supreme court Justice in South Carolina.

March 30, 1870

- 1) Texas is readmitted to the union following Reconstruction, making its ratification of the 15th Amendment on Feb. 18th official.
- 2) The 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, giving blacks the right to vote, is ratified by Hamilton Fish, U.S. Secretary of State.
- 3) Ulysses S. Grant, President, issues "Special Message" announcing 15th Amendment.

March 31, 1870

Thomas Mundy Peterson is the first African-American to vote in an election. This occurred in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. (How fitting: New Jersey!)

March, 1870

American Anti-Slavery Society disbanded.

VLACK 17-87B WITH MARIS 77-dd OVERSTRIKE (Don Hartman)



In November 2009 I spotted a posting on a metal detecting forum from a fellow in North Central Pennsylvania who had just found, as he put it, "a King George III with strange markings." He saw the letters "UM" which did not look counter stamped, but more like it had been struck on the coin with a die. He posted his find with some nice photographs, hoping to get input on its identity.

I downloaded the photos and sent them to Ray Williams, Roger Moore and Wayne Shelby. Wayne was the first to reply, suggesting it was a Vlack 17-87B, and I agreed. In addition I asked David Palmer to weigh in and he was kind enough to verify that it was indeed a Vlack 17-87B. Wayne in his identification further noted: *"The obverse of the Vlack 17-87B shows the NUM of UNUM as in NJ copper, you can also see the vertical lines of the shield in the bust of George....by George!!!!"* **(Figure 1)***

Ray Williams and Roger Moore expressed an interest in personally studying the coin and asked me if the finder would send it to either one of them. I passed this request on to the metal detectorist and indicated that the coin might be "special." After some thought, he agreed to send the coin for study, but only to me, since I have been in contact with him on the metal detecting forums for several years and have the reputation of being trustworthy.

Upon receiving the coin I weighed it and saw that it was only 105.5 grains, which was much lighter than any of the NJ coppers in my own collection. However, the

*All figures appear at the end of the article.

weight did correspond to what one would expect to find with a Vlack 17-87B. My greatest initial interest was oriented on the remnants of the New Jersey and a determination of its Maris die variety. Ray Williams and I both noticed there were 4 lines per pale, and according to Ray that eliminated the more common Camel Head variety overstrikes. Therefore my journey to identify the NJ die variety was directed at searching the Maris New Jersey die chart for a reverse that contained both pales with 4 lines and the specific spacing between the shield outline and the letters "NUM". (Figure 2)

I saw that the Running Fox copper, Maris 77-dd variety, was a possibility and I happened to have a late die state 77-dd that I found while metal detecting a few years ago. So with both coins at hand, I took identically sized photographs of both coins. Using an overlay program, I determined that the variety of the NJ strike was a Maris 77-dd. (Figure 3) However, the die state of the Maris 77-dd eluded me due to a lack of needed details. I did eliminate the possibility of a "Maris bb" reverse due to the positioning of "NUM". At this point, with the two coin identities confirmed, I contacted Phil Mossman, MD, who indicated that no known NJ Running Foxes were known to occur as either undertypes or overstrikes in any other series. Dr. Mossman suggested looking up Gary Trudgen's article "James Atlee's Imitation British Halfpence" article that was in the March 1987 *Colonial Newsletter*.

After reading Gary's article, it made sense that a Running Fox variety might occur in conjunction with a Vlack 17-87B. Gary's article offered that the Vlack 17-87B was struck at the mint in New York City operated by John Bailey. James Atlee also was known to have been at that mint during the same approximate timeframe. Putting this together with the consideration that John Bailey had been contracted to make NJ coppers and may well have been the minter of the Running Fox varieties, there would have been the opportunity for both a Vlack 17-87B coin and the dies of the Running Fox New Jerseys to be at the same mint at the same time.

Having investigated the coin up to this point, I thought it was time to bring Gary Trudgen into my research. His help was greatly appreciated and both of us worked to try and determine a few more needed facts. With several C4 members now helping, we wanted a consensus on whether the NJ had been the undertype or had been struck on top of the Vlack 17-87B. There are NO KNOWN New Jerseys that served as undertypes for any other coinages, except for the Maris 26-S serving as an undertype for a few rare *Immunis Columbia* coppers and a number of NJs serving as undertypes for other NJ varieties. The weight and diameter was pointing towards the first struck coin having been a Vlack 17-87B rather than the Maris 77-dd, which are typically on a larger and heavier planchet. Roger Moore, Wayne Shelby and I using both microscopic examination and high-resolution photography performed a physical inspection of the

coin. Roger Moore was fairly certain that the coin was a NJ overstrike and not an undertype, based on the photos I had sent earlier. When he was able to physically exam the coin, he was all the more certain that the shield pale lines were struck over the armor of George, thus making it a NJ overstrike. (**Figure 4**)

During this time, all interest in the coin had been centered on the Vlack 17-87B obverse side of the coin, since the reverse had nothing that obviously corresponded with a NJ strike. However, with closer inspection of the reverse, I spotted two segments that might well correspond of the scroll (located below the horse's head) of a New Jersey obverse die. (**Figure 5**)

Now it was time to play with the overlay program again!! Using a good photo of the obverse of my Maris 77-dd Type III coin, I did another overlay and determined the scroll segments did match my coin but it was hard to determine if the NJ overstrike on this side was 50% off centered like the NJ reverse strike or if it was centered. (**Figure 6**) I needed to see some other details of the NJ obverse side to help determine the positioning of this strike. After many hours of looking at enhanced photos of the partial scroll side of the coin, I was sure I saw the end of one of the plow handles just a little below the letter N in BRITANNIA. (**Figure 7**) Then going back to my overlay animation, I was fairly certain that there was a small portion of the plow handle visible on the coin.

I was now thinking that even though the NJ reverse side overstrike was approximately 50% off center, the NJ obverse strike appeared to have been centered! At this point both Gary Trudgen and I tried to confirm the strike and both of us printed out larger photos of the coin (both sides). Using a bright light with overlays it was determined by both of us that the NJ obverse (Scroll side) was struck basically centered, whereas the NJ reverse (shield side) was approximately 50% off centered. This conclusion is rather puzzling and is an unresolved issue with the coin.

Another issue that arose was on the side of the coin with the scroll segments. In the central portion of the coin, a number of parallel vertical lines can be seen where the patina has been broken away. (**Figure 8**) These vertical lines might be additional shield pale lines, which would greatly complicate the understanding of this coin. I am not definite on whether these additional lines are actually pale lines or some other weird "damage" done to this unusual copper. Unfortunately while I was in the process of really trying to get good super macro photos of those lines, the owner decided to have me send the coin off to Stacks for inclusion in the January 2010 Americana sale, Lot 4430.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: There is some question as to whether the coin is a NJ overstrike or undertype. Stack's listed the coin as a 1787 Vlack 17-87B struck over a 1788 Maris 77-dd. The evidence presented here seems to strongly suggest that the NJ is the overstrike on a lightweight planchet.

Also, the undefined vertical lines (on the scroll side) are unresolved. Are they the result of multiple strikes, die clash, or something else? Hopefully the new owner will allow further study to resolve these issues.

If my conclusions on the strikes are correct, how could the NJ reverse side (shield) be approximately 50% off center and the NJ obverse strike appear centered? Finally, I was not able to identify the die state type of the Maris "dd" reverse.

Comments would be appreciated on all issues and please send them to me at slospokes2@comcast.net.

SUMMARY: The ground-found "King George III with strange markings" was photographed and studied, with the following results. (**Figure 9**)

A 1787 Vlack 17-87B with 1788 Maris 77-dd partial overstrikes
Weight: 105.5 Grains
Diameter: 27.4mm X axis; 26.8mm Y axis
Orientation: Coin turn for both the 17-87B and 77-dd
Overstrike NJ obverse is approximately 50% off center
NJ reverse appears to be centered
Condition: Heavily corroded but the 17-87B has very good details and the NJ overstrike is partial

CONCLUSION: I believe the coin requires more study to help answer how the pairing happened, why it was done, and the unresolved issues noted. I also believe this is the only known Running Fox variety struck on a 17-87B, which supplies additional support to a theory that the 1787 Vlack 17-87B and the Maris 77 series were struck by John Bailey at the NY mint.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Overall, the research was a great learning experience for me. I engaged in the assistance of some of the best in C4, so again many thanks to Roger Moore, MD; Phil Mossman, MD; David Palmer; Wayne Shelby; Gary Trudgen; and Ray Williams for their help and guidance in researching this newly discovered overstrike. Also thanks to Roger Moore for allowing the use of his photographs.



Figure 1. NUM of UNUM Visible, as is Shield

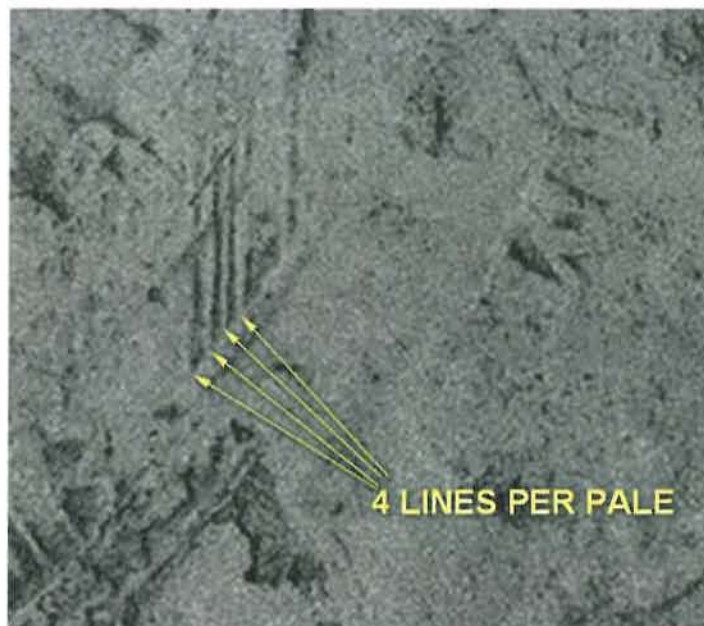


Figure 2. Four Lines Per Pale

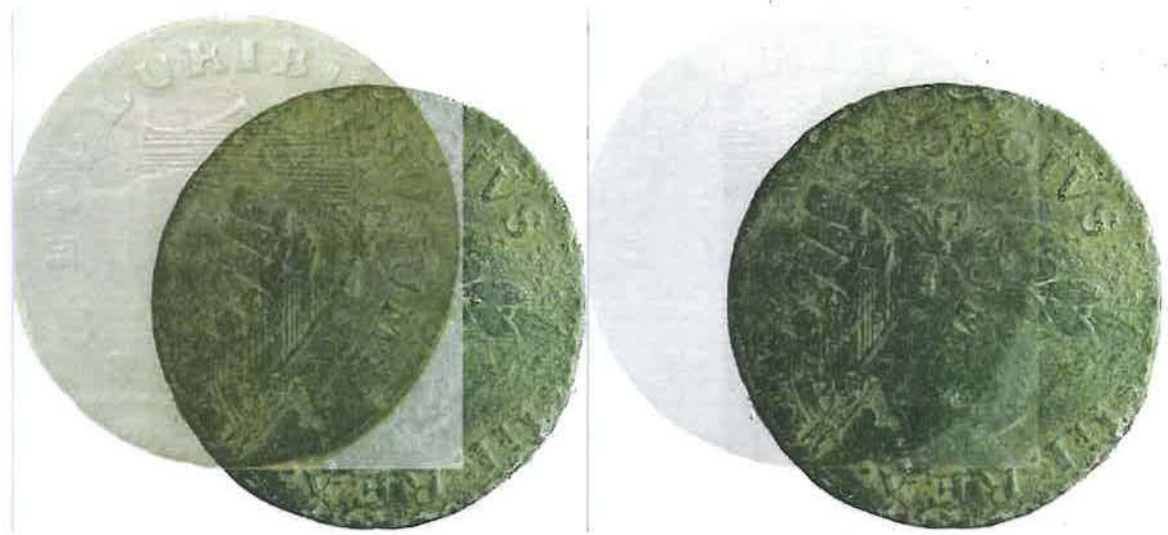


Figure 3. Overlay Determining dd Reverse Position



Figure 4. Shield Lines Over Armor



Figure 5. Two Scroll Segments



Figure 6. Overlays Determining the dd Reverse



Figure 7. End of Plow Handle

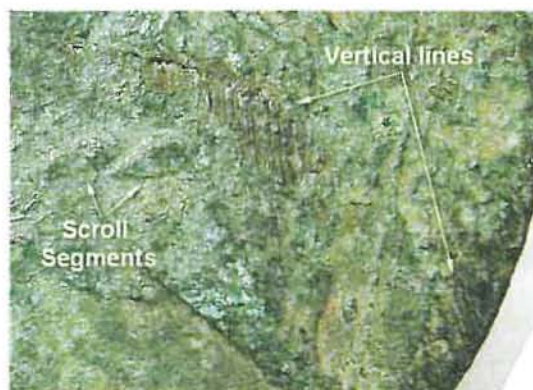


Figure 8. Undetermined Vertical Lines



Figure 9. Statistics for Both Coins

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE ST. PATRICK COINAGE: A RESPONSE

(Oliver D. Hoover)

In the Winter 2009 issue of the *C4 Newsletter*, John N. Lupia attempted to identify the denominations of the enigmatic St. Patrick coinage of seventeenth century Ireland and to establish separate chronologies for each of the two sizes.¹ Readers can be grateful for the author's extensive discussion of early references to the small and large St. Patrick coppers by numismatists of the late seventeenth century and for his analysis of a report of an Irish hoard uncovered in 1862. His case for identifying both sizes of St. Patrick copper as halfpence is also compelling.² However, close review of Lupia's chronological arguments raises difficulties in accepting his case for dating the small St. Patrick copper to c. 1646-1660 and the large copper to c. 1688. The following discussion addresses the arguments used to support Lupia's chronology and offers the evidential, logical, and methodological reasons for doubting their validity. An expanded and more detailed version of this article with a full reassessment of the chronology of the St. Patrick coppers in light of new iconographic evidence will appear in *The Colonial Newsletter* in 2011.

Lupia's Chronology of the Small St. Patrick Copper

In his article, Lupia dates the small St. Patrick varieties to c. 1646-1660 for five main reasons, all of which tend to crumble when closely scrutinized:

- 1) The small diameter is in keeping with the size of private tokens issued before 1672.³
- 2) Randle Holme's *The Academy of Armory* (1688) reports that the small St. Patrick copper was struck during the exile of Charles II (1646-1660).⁴
- 3) Charles I had experimented with silver-plated pattern halfpence designed by Nicholas Briot (c. 1579-1646). The small St. Patrick piece was a further development of this experiment.⁵
- 4) Briot's widow made an obscure claim for £2806 after the death of Oliver Cromwell. This money was probably due for the engraver's work on the St. Patrick dies.⁶
- 5) Charles I was frequently depicted as King David playing the harp as on the St. Patrick coinage.⁷

While Lupia is correct to point out that the size of the small planchet St. Patrick copper is similar to that of the Kinsale portcullis penny token illustrated in Simon's *Essay*, this observation cannot be used to establish a date of issue before 1672. For one thing, Lupia does not appreciate that the engraved illustration misrepresents the actual date on the Kinsale piece. Instead of 1672, the Kinsale portcullis penny is actually dated 1677 (Figure 1).⁸ At best this produces a possible date of issue for the small St. Patrick



Figure 1. Irish copper penny token, Kinsale, Co. Cork, 1677.

copper before 1677—but only if we agree that it was valued as a halfpenny and “had to be earlier being the same size and half the value [of the Kinsale penny].”⁹ Lupia is likely to be correct in identifying the “Patrick Halfpence” demonetized on the Isle of Man by the 24 June 1669 Act of Tynwald as the small planchet St. Patrick coin, especially in light of the association of this denomination with Mark Newby in West Jersey in 1682 and its description as a halfpenny in Randle Holme’s *The Academy of Armory* (1688).¹⁰ Nevertheless, it is impossible to agree with Lupia’s chronological position since the 1677 Kinsale penny could weigh as much as 161.8 grains, while the small St. Patrick coin appears to have had a full weight of c. 95.3 grains.¹¹ This weight disparity tends to undermine the combined use of diameter and (probable) face value as a basis for dating the small St. Patrick copper significantly earlier than the Kinsale penny. Curiously, the weight relationship between the small St. Patrick denomination and the Kinsale penny (1.69:1) is not far off from the weight relationship between the small and the large St. Patrick coins (1.5:1).

Randle Holme’s claim in 1688 that the small St. Patrick coin was struck “in the time of King Charles the Second Exile” (approximately 30 to 40 years earlier) —the real crux of Lupia’s chronology—is uncorroborated by any other evidence and therefore should not receive much more weight than the numerous other unsubstantiated statements in the literature to the effect that this coinage was struck under Charles I or the Catholic Confederacy of Kilkenny.¹² Indeed, one wonders whether these later claims have evolved from the remarks of Holme. Holme’s statement is a little suspicious in light of the fact that seven years before Holme’s work, Thomas Dingley seems to have known nothing about the association of the coinage with the period of Charles’ exile when he published his *Observations in a voyage through the kingdom of Ireland* (1681). As Dingley’s work is thought to contain the earliest literary and pictorial reference to the small St. Patrick copper, Holme’s statement seems somewhat dubious. It is highly improbable that Holme, an *English* royalist who was only 19 years old when Charles II

went into exile, could accurately remember the introduction of a relatively insignificant copper coinage in *Ireland* some 27 years after the Restoration.

The pattern halfpence that Nicholas Briot struck for Charles I can only indicate that production of the small St. Patrick copper occurred some time after 1646 if we assume with Lupia (essentially following Breen) that Briot was also responsible for the design of the small St. Patrick coinage.¹³ Unfortunately, there is no evidential basis for this assumption. The supposed punch links between the royal coinage produced by Briot for Charles I in Scotland have never been substantiated. This claim has been strongly doubted by Michael Hodder.¹⁴ The argument related to the financial claim of Briot's widow is meaningless since we have no idea what the claim was for. The possibility that it could somehow have something to do with Briot's supposed work on the St. Patrick coinage looks like a guess used to prop up a speculation.

Lupia's argument for similarities between the depictions of King David on the St. Patrick coinage and those of Charles I also ultimately derives from Breen (and Edward Maris),¹⁵ but does not take into account the many problems with this position. Michael Hodder already drew attention to the shared iconography with roughly contemporary issues of Nuremberg and Brugg in 1987 (Figures 2-3), while a paper challenging the identification of the David of the St. Patrick coinage with Charles I was offered at the 2006 Coinage of the Americas Conference and published in 2009.¹⁶ Neither of these works appears to have been known to Lupia. If he had been aware of the COAC piece, he would have known that the heads of David on the large and small planchet St. Patricks differ from each other and that the king's head on the latter looks more like the balding elderly ruler found in some seventeenth century religious paintings than a representation of the long-haired and goateed Charles I (Figures 4-5).¹⁷



Figure 2. Nuremberg silver portugaloser, 1641.



Figure 3. Brugg silver psalmenpfennig, 1750-1775.



Figure 4. Enlargement of David's elderly balding head with full beard on the small planchet St. Patrick copper

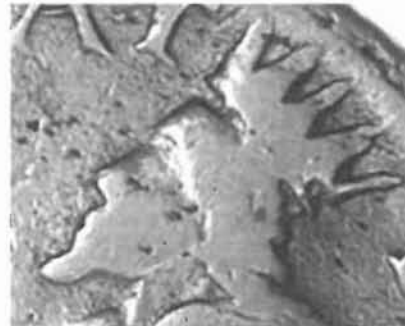


Figure 5. Enlargement of David's younger head with long hair and goatee-like beard on the large planchet St. Patrick copper.

This brief analysis shows that there is really no hard evidence to support a dating as early as c. 1646-1660 for the production of the small St. Patrick denomination. At present there is no known documentary or archaeological evidence that can show circulation of the series before 1675/6. Only baseless conjecture and speculation pushes the date of the small St. Patrick coin as early as the 1640s and 1650s.

Lupia's Chronology of the Large St. Patrick Coin

Lupia dates the large planchet St. Patrick coin to c. 1688 for four main reasons, none of which are especially compelling:

- 1) The first illustration of a small planchet St. Patrick coin appears in Thomas Dingley's *Observations in a voyage through the kingdom of Ireland: being a collection of several monuments, inscriptions, draughts of towns, castles, &c.* (1681) and is described without reference to the large planchet series in Randle Holme's *The Academy of Armory* (1688). The large planchet is not mentioned before John Sharp published *English Coins and their History* (1697).¹⁸
- 2) The large size is in keeping with the regal Irish halfpence of Charles II and James II struck in 1680, and 1685-1688.¹⁹
- 3) Fifty-eight fresh St. Patrick's "halfpence" were reported alongside four worn Charles II regal halfpence struck between 1675 and 1680 in an Irish hoard uncovered in 1862.²⁰
- 4) In 1688, the embattled King James II restored St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin to the Catholic Church.²¹

While Lupia is probably right to distinguish separate periods of production for the large and small planchet St. Patrick coins,²² the absence of literary evidence for the large St. Patrick coin before 1697 is an argument from silence and proves very little. The small St. Patrick coin appears in no known literary source before Thomas Dingley's *Observations in a voyage through the kingdom of Ireland* that was published in 1681, and yet the two examples of small planchet St. Patrick coppers salvaged from the wreck of the royal yacht *Mary* (sunk March 24, 1675/6) make it clear that this denomination already existed in the second half of the seventeenth century.²³ Because Dingley's work is not a comprehensive numismatic study, but rather an antiquarian travel account introducing readers to the marvels and curiosities of Ireland, it seems unreasonable to place any meaning on the absence of the large St. Patrick copper from his discussion. Indeed, the much lower level of production for the large St. Patrick coppers makes it far more likely for Dingley to have had exposure to the small than the large planchet coppers while traveling. The latter involves only 4 obverse and 6 reverse dies in 10 combinations, while the former reportedly includes at least 120 die combinations.²⁴

It is worth pointing out that in the discussion of the relationship between the two planchet sizes Lupia has overlooked the work on the subject by Phil Mossman. While both authors agree that the large and small St. Patrick coppers are likely to have originally represented the same denomination (halfpenny), Mossman argues that the large planchet series was probably produced first and then reduced to the small size in order to maximize profit for the minter(s).²⁵ The chronological placement of the large planchet series before the small may also be supported by previously unrecognized iconographic evidence.

On the other hand, Lupia's argument for placing the large planchet issue later than the small St. Patrick copper based on size cannot be entirely discounted. The large copper does indeed show a somewhat greater resemblance to the regal Irish halfpence produced in 1680 than it does to the private tokens and patent halfpence used earlier in the seventeenth century. However, the heavier weight of the large St. Patrick copper (c. 143.5 grains) in comparison to the regal Irish halfpence (authorized at 110 grains) tends to argue against any direct metrological relationship between the two series.

At first glance, the hoard evidence mentioned by Lupia may seem to support his views on the late chronology of the large St. Patrick copper. As the St. Patrick coppers were reportedly fresh and the Charles II coins were worn it is only reasonable to conclude that the former were produced more recently than the latter. However, it is probably a mistake to assume that when the hoard report mentions St. Patrick "halfpence" it refers to the large planchet variety. Most commentators of the nineteenth century (perhaps in part under the influence of Dr. Robert Cane, who is mentioned in the report) were of the opinion that the large planchet coppers circulated as a penny.²⁶ Bearing this numismatic intellectual context in mind it seems far more likely that the St. Patrick "halfpence" in the hoard were of the small, rather than the large size. If this view is correct, any positive evidence for dating the origin of the large planchet coppers to the late 1680s completely evaporates. It also raises some questions about the integrity of the hoard since the English halfpence of Charles II (struck 1675 and 1676) appear to have been roughly contemporary with the small St. Patrick coppers and his Irish halfpence (struck 1680) postdate the issue of the small planchet variety. Unfortunately, there are no photographs or better descriptions of the regal halfpence from this hoard. If not for the reported wear and if they could be identified as English issues, they might tend to support the beginning of small St. Patrick production around 1675. Such a date also has new iconographic evidence to recommend it.

Lastly, the association of the large denomination with the restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral is not a true chronological argument. Instead, it is an assumption based on the erroneous premise that the series must have been struck in the 1680s and must be related to a significant Irish Catholic historical event.

The Silver St. Patrick Issue

Going back to Dingley's account of his antiquarian adventures in Ireland, Lupia also latches onto the report of a "Patrick's groat" paid to servants by their masters on St. Patrick's Day. Lupia immediately assumes that this "groat" should be identified with the rare silver St. Patrick issue.²⁷ While it would be wonderful if this were true, it is clear from the context that the "Patrick's groat" does not refer to a specific coin, but is a general term for any monetary gift distributed on St. Patrick's Day. Dingley reports that the value of this "groat" was variable and "sometimes it amount[ed] to a piece of 8 or a cobb piece."²⁸ It is virtually impossible to identify the silver St. Patrick issue as Dingley's "Patrick's groat." The coin could not have been intended as a groat (fourpenny piece) in any literal sense since its target weight seems to have been about 102.0 grains and therefore had an intrinsic value of about 14d Irish.²⁹ On the other hand, the St. Patrick silver coin would have been grossly overvalued if it was considered equivalent to a Spanish eight reales coin. In the 1660s, full-weight Mexican, Seville, and pillar eight reales circulated in Ireland with a value of 4s 9d (57d) Irish, while full-weight Potosí eight reales were valued at only 4s 6d (54d) Irish.³⁰ As the silver St. Patrick issue was too heavy and valuable to be a groat and yet much too small to have had a value equivalent to that of the Spanish eight reales one can only conclude that Dingley does not actually refer

to the silver St. Patrick issue when he mentions the customary distribution of the "Patrick's groat."

Conclusion

John Lupia has done a great service in focusing attention on the early literature related to the St. Patrick coinage and in presenting textual evidence that is difficult to access or that is otherwise poorly known to numismatists. Nevertheless, it should be clear from the preceding discussion that the case for his revised chronology leaves something to be desired. More work still needs to be done before anyone can honestly say that the chronology of the large and small St. Patrick coppers has been settled.

ENDNOTES

¹ J. N. Lupia, "The Two St. Patrick Coinages: The Smaller c. 1646-1660 and the Larger c. 1688," *C4 Newsletter* (Winter 2009), pp. 8-19.

² Lupia (2009), p. 10. Lupia seems to be unaware that this conclusion was already reached by Phil Mossman in 1993. See P. Mossman, *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation* (New York, 1993), pp. 127-130.

³ Lupia (2009), p. 10.

⁴ Lupia (2009), p. 10.

⁵ Lupia (2009), p. 11.

⁶ Lupia (2009), p. 12.

⁷ Lupia (2009), pp. 12-14.

⁸ See P. Seaby, *Coins and Tokens of Ireland* (London, 1970), p. 115.

⁹ Lupia (2009), p. 10.

¹⁰ R Siboni and V. Yegparian,, "Mark Newby and his St. Patrick Halfpence," in O. Hoover (ed.), *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, COAC Proceedings 16 (New York, 2009), pp. 301-303; R. Holme, *The Academy of Armory* (Chester, 1688), vol. 3, p. 30; J. Lupia, "At Least One Million Patricks," *C4 Newsletter* (Winter 2007), pp. 15-18.

¹¹ For the weight standard of 95.3 grains for the small St. Patrick copper see P. Mossman, "The Denominations of the St. Patrick Coinages," in O. Hoover (ed.), *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, COAC Proceedings 16 (New York, 2009), pp. 15-17 *contra* the "87 or 89 grains" given by Lupia (2009), p. 10. Unfortunately the only weight known to the author for the Kinsale penny comes from a worn example sold online by York Coins: <https://yorkcoins.com/ir455-co_cork_kinsale_civic_issue_copper_penny_token.htm>

¹² For a brief survey of the various claims, see W. Nipper, "Old and New Takes on the St. Patrick Coinage," in O. Hoover (ed.), *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, COAC Proceedings 16 (New York, 2009), pp. 75-77.

¹³ See Breen (1988), p. 38.

- ¹⁴ M. Hodder, "The St. Patrick Token Coinage: A Re-evaluation of the Evidence," *CNL* 77 (1987), p. 1017.
- ¹⁵ Breen (1988), p. 38; E. Maris. *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey* (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 4.
- ¹⁶ Hodder (1987), p. 1017; O. Hoover, "Ye King and I: King David as King Charles I on the St. Patrick Coinage," in O. Hoover (ed.), *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, COAC Proceedings 16 (New York, 2009), pp. 46-64.
- ¹⁷ Hoover (2009), pp. 46-48 with pl. 1, nos. 1-4.
- ¹⁸ Lupia (2009), pp. 8-10 and 14-15. Lupia claims that Sharp's work was actually complete by 1696 because it was available for William Nicholson to consult for *The English Historical Library*, but the former does not properly follow from the latter. Although the first volume of Nicholson's work appeared in 1696, the third volume with numismatic content was not published until 1699.
- ¹⁹ Lupia (2009), p. 16.
- ²⁰ Lupia (2009), pp. 16-17.
- ²¹ Lupia (2009), p. 17.
- ²² This was already recognized by Phil Mossman. See Mossman (1993), pp. 129-130.
- ²³ M. Dolley and M. Warhurst, "New Evidence for the Date of the So-Called 'St. Patrick's' Halfpence and Farthings," *Irish Numismatics* 59 (1977), pp. 161-163; S. C. Bean, "Appendix Three: Coins Recovered from the Royal Yacht *Mary*," in M. Tanner, *Royal Yacht Mary: The Discovery of the First Royal Yacht* (Liverpool, 2008), pp. 85 and 87. Bean cautions that the coin finds from the *Mary* might be contaminated with material from other wrecks in the same way that the ceramic finds from the *Mary* have been contaminated, but this seems somewhat unlikely. The latest dated coin in the material from the *Mary* is a 1670 Flemish ducatoon of Charles II of Spain. There is nothing about the salvaged coins that would suggest that some might not belong to the *Mary*.
- ²⁴ R. Vlack, "Die Varieties of St. Patrick Halfpence," *The Colonial Newsletter* 7 (January 1968), pp. 199-202; W. Breen, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (New York, 1988), p. 34.
- ²⁵ Mossman (1993), pp. 129-130; Mossman (2009), pp. 23-34.
- ²⁶ I.e., J. Lindsay, *A View to the Coinage of Ireland* (Cork, 1839), p. 56; D. T. Batty, *Batty's Descriptive Catalogue of the Copper Coinage of Great Britain, Ireland, British Isles, and Colonies...&c.* vol. 3 (Manchester, 1886), p. 821; J. Horan, "Some Observations and Speculations on St. Patrick Halfpence and Farthings," *CNL* 47 (1976), p. 567. For a recent survey of proposed denomination identification see Mossman (2009), pp. 32-33.
- ²⁷ Lupia (2009), p. 14.
- ²⁸ E. Shirley, "Extracts from the Journal of Thomas Dineley, Esquire, Giving Some Account of his Visit to Ireland in the Reign of Charles II," *The Journal of the of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society* 1.1 (1856), p. 183. Quoted in Lupia (2009), p. 14.
- ²⁹ Mossman (2009), p. 37.
- ³⁰ L. Jordan, *John Hull, the Mint and the Economics of Massachusetts Coinage* (Ann Arbor, 2002), p. 162.

CAUTION USING EBAY PHOTOGRAPHS

(Roger Moore, MD)

Caveat Emptor or “let the buyer beware” is truly the operative phrase when buying any coin. C4 advocates have often emphasized the value of buying the book before buying the coin, thereby underlining the importance for each of us to be educated buyers. However, even an educated buyer can be fooled by a seller who, either unintentionally or fraudulently, tries to peddle a coin. Anyone familiar with buying coins on eBay should be aware of the seller who claims that his coin was obtained from his great grandmother. The photo included with the sales pitch (if there is a photo) is typically poorly done but even then typically shows an obvious fake of a rare variety. Unfortunately, all too often these fakes sell for incredible prices to the uneducated. However, armed with proper “book” knowledge and good photographs, one does not expect to be easily fooled. The problem is that not all photographs are created equal. eBay is one site where distortion and manipulation of photographs might be anticipated and if such distortion is well done, might make determining the bid on a coin problematic.

I recently bought a counterfeit half penny on eBay based on a posted photograph (Figure 1). The coin is a 1773 counterfeit halfpenny from the Aging George (AG) family, one of the most common counterfeit halfpenny families. However, what caught my eye was the way the obverse legend seemed to shrink, with the “S” in GEORGIVS being tiny in comparison to the rest of the letters. None of my AGs had this characteristic and I put a substantial snipe bid on the coin. I was surprised when I got it for only \$3 but when it came in the mail, I had to go back to check whether the posted coin was indeed the same coin. A re-photograph of the coin (Figure 2) by me shows that the shrinking legend was a photographic trick and not an actual characteristic of the coin at all. In spite of the disappointment, the coin was a bargain, and I did not send it back. The purpose of this short alert is simply warn you that coins on eBay may be photographed at a very tilted angle and the coin you see may not be the coin that you get. Make sure there is a good return policy in case you think the photo has been manipulated or poorly shot.



Figure 1 – eBay Photo



Figure 2 – Moore Photo

****THE SPANISH-AMERICAN CORNER****

SPANISH COIN AND THE U.S. COMMERCE

(Marc Mayhugh)

Countermarked coins are extremely popular among Early American collectors. Merchant counterstamps on two real coins are always sought after, and in demand, and counterstamped eight real coins, considerably rarer than the marked two reales, also attract attention whenever offered. Merchant counterstamps are, at times, easy to identify, there being several well-done books on the subject, chief among them the Brunk catalog.¹ Other countermarked coins, without a merchants name or address, can be quite puzzling and only guesswork and speculation can be used try to unravel their mysteries and define what they represent or signify.

One such coin is a Spanish eight reale of 1793, (see illustration). This particular coin is stamped in two separate locations – one mark is stamped “DOL”, assumed to represent the denomination “dollar,” the other stamp is marked “cents.” Both stamps are rectangular indents and very well done. When viewing this coin, the first question that comes to mind is, “why would someone countermark a Spanish eight real coin with two basic units of the United States monetary system?” The marks are well done and would have taken some time to prepare, indicating they have some sort of special significance to the issuer, but what?



Two possibilities come to mind: (1) the issuer was advocating for a monetary system of dollars and cents rather than continued use of the antiquated Spanish real system, or (2) the issuer was proclaiming that this coin was as good as the U.S. system of dollars and cents. Arguments could be made for either theory.

At this point, perhaps a brief look at how the Spanish dollar affected the U.S. monetary system is in order. The Spanish dollar for many years was the standard on which the U.S. economy was based, with the U.S. dollar actually patterned after the Spanish eight real coin.² Each real in the Spanish system was equivalent of 12 ½ cents and matched up favorably with our decimal system. Our dollar = 8 reales, our half-dollar = 4 reales, and our quarter dollar = 2 reales, etc. The Spanish coins circulating in America had such an effect on the U.S. economy that advertising mirrors valued at 12 ½ cents were being circulated in the Western states as late as the 1890's, and two reale coins, valued at 25 cents, were being circulated and countermarked by merchants in New York City nearly a hundred years after the establishment of the U.S. Mint!³ In short, the Spanish 8 real system was firmly entrenched in the U.S. economy from the early days of colonization clear up to the late 19th century.

Getting back to the countermarked coin, the first possibility as to why it was marked, i.e. that someone was advocating for the U.S. system over the Spanish, has the strongest position. The U.S. was, for whatever reasons, loath to abolish the Spanish system until 1857, and even though the Spanish reales were legal tender until that date, there were problems. Mainly, the good dollars were hoarded on the East coast⁴ while the rest of the country had to contend with the old, battered, clipt, and beat up minors, not to mention a multitude of counterfeit Spanish coins. A blistering indictment of this situation can be seen in the words of Jacob Ekfeldt and William Dubois, when they state in their book.

The great majority of counterfeits, new or old, deserve neither to be admired nor feared; and the fact of their obtaining any circulation proves folly on the one part, as much as roguery upon the other.

With this wholesale judgment, we dismiss a multitude of awkward Mexican birds, laughable heads of Liberty, type metal casts, and villainous compounds of German silver; all of which are too much kept in countenance by the lingering presence in our circulation of the ugly and worn out coins of Spanish monarchs.⁵

Further dissatisfaction can be found in the words of mint director, Robert M. Patterson who, in 1843, said the parts of the Spanish milled dollar were "so reduced by wear, on an average, the half dollar is worth but 49 1/3 cents; the quarter dollar about 23 ½ cents; the eighths, 11 cents; and the sixteenths, 5.2 cents. All of these, except the half dollar, are plentiful in our circulation; and so long as a trace of a pillar or letter is to be seen upon them, pass generally at the rates scheduled by law."⁶

Finally, absolute condemnation of the Spanish system can be found in an 1830 Senate committee report. Schinke summarizes the report by observing that domestic silver coins were "incessantly displaced by diminished" (abraded) Spanish silver; and warned that the longer the Spanish coins remained in circulation "they will more and more, banish our own coins from circulation. As diminished coins, they cannot be tolerated: their currency is incompatible with the due progress and success of our own system of money; and it is indispensable to the preservation of our own coins, that the

currency of these Spanish coins should cease.”⁷

These sentiments, and others like them, seem to confirm that the person who stamped the 1793 eight reale coin was, indeed, advocating for a U.S. system of coinage. On the other hand, one could just as easily argue that the person who punched this coin was arguing that the Spanish 8 reale was equal to, or just as good as, our own decimal dollar composed of 100 cents.

The Spanish 8 reale coin was a truly international trade coin and during its long existence was counterstamped by various countries with their own particular countermark, of which Great Britain, Portugal, and Mexico are but a few. Almost every West Indian island marked the 8 real in an effort to make it part of their own currency. It is interesting to note that Walter Mould, coiner of New Jersey coppers, advocated to the Continental Congress the striking of Spanish milled dollars with a United States mark to provide a coinage for the new country.⁸ This was fully ten years before the British actually tried it in 1797, stamping Spanish dollars with an oval indent of King George III.

In England during the last quarter of the eighteenth century and early portion of the nineteenth, there was an extreme shortage of large silver coins. This was coupled with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, whereby coal, iron, and cotton production, as well as intensified manufacturing necessitated large silver coins. Once again the Spanish piece of eight stepped in and filled that need. Literally thousands of Spanish dollars were countermarked with a vast array of different stamps to supply the need for private industries, factories, and mills.⁹ One might argue that this never occurred in the United States, yet there is evidence to indicate that it did. Writing in the “Crooked Lake Review,” Gerald Muhl provides us with this fascinating account: “In the 1880’s unscrupulous employers bought Spanish ‘dollars’ from brokers at a discount then used them to pay out as wages at ‘face value’ of 100 cents. Many were paid to miners in northern Pennsylvania and to factory workers in border towns in New York just over the Pennsylvania line. Retailers were forced to accept these foreign coins but raised their prices to make up for any loss. Since banks refused them, the merchants sold them to brokers at a discount and the cycle began all over. The bullion value of a Spanish dollar or piece of eight in 1883 was about 85 cents. Thus the coal boss could pocket a profit of near 15% on his dealings.”¹⁰

The falling price of silver and the Morgan dollar surely put an end to this practice, yet one can see how it would function with captive workers, at least for a time. One could also see where a coal boss might counterstamp his dollars with a counterstamp proclaiming the piece of eight worth “Dollars & Cents.”

In closing, everything presented here regarding the counterstamp is pure speculation. The true meaning of the “Dol” and “Cents” will probably never be known. I asked for ideas about it on the Yahoo Spanish-American chat group and received only one response. That from my “ole buddy Taxi-Steve.” Steve’s response was: “I will try and figure it out...probably something to do with them taking away the legal status in the U.S.... I’d imagine there are newspaper articles from the 1850’s dealing with the debate

of this pro and con. Not sure if the guy was pro or con removal, but those articles, if you can find them, might give an idea.” The fact that Steve’s thoughts were pretty much my own compelled me to write this little piece. As a collector of 8 reales, this counterstamped piece is one of my favorites, and most definitely had some special significance regarding the long and established circulation of “pieces of eight” in American commerce.

ENDNOTES

¹ Brunk, Gregory G. *Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins*, World Exonumia Press, 2003.

² Schilke, Oscar G. and Raphael E. Solomon. *America’s Foreign Coins: An Illustrated Standard Catalogue with Valuations of Foreign Coins with Legal Tender Status in the United States 1793-1857*,” The coin and Currency Institute, Inc., 1964, p. 20.

³ Kleeberg, John M. “Counterfeit 2 reales of the Bust Type: Charles III, Charles IV, Ferdinand VII 1771-1821 A Survey and a Die Study,” *Circulating Counterfeits of the Americas*, *Coinage of the Americas Conference*, New York:ANS, November 7, 1998, pp. 141, 149.

⁴ Schilke, p. 42.

⁵ Eckfeldt, Jacob R. and William E. Dubois. *New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins: Counterfeit Coins and Bullion: with Mint Values* (3rd Edition), New York, 1852.

⁶ Schilke, p. 52.

⁷ Schilke, p.43.

⁸ Mayhugh, Marc. “A Walter Mould Coining Proposal,” *C4 Newsletter*, vol. 12, no. 1, Spring 2004.

⁹ Manville, H.E. “Tokens of the Industrial Revolution: Foreign Silver Coins Countermarked for use in Great Britain, c.1787-1828,” *British Numismatic Society*, 2001.

¹⁰ Muhl, Gerald. “Crooked Lake Review,” see web:
http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/101_135/119spring2001/119muhl.html

SPANISH COLONIAL MILLED SILVER COINAGE CHECKLIST (Ken Gurley)

Spanish Colonial silver coinage was the primary coinage that circulated in the American colonies. Evidence of this comes from the proliferation of American counterstamps (especially on two reales on the coins, the number of contemporary counterfeits mimicking these coins, the fact that 79% of the recovered coins from the H.M.S. Feversham were Spanish Colonial and from their use as denominations on American Colonial currency. All denominations (except the one-quarter real) were legal tender in the United States until 1857. The one-half, one and two reales were the workhorse denominations. Four reales were scarce and eight reales were mostly used for international and large transactions, not daily commerce. Indeed, Spanish Colonial coinage was trade coinage for the entire world. I suspect when coin collecting expands in Asia, these will be the coins that they desire.

I developed the following checklist as a guide for my collection. It covers the Spanish Colonial coinage from when the milling process began until the countries won their independence from Spain. All silver denominations by major type and mint are included. There are a total of 233 major types, or 268 types with additional varieties included – certainly a daunting task but about 100 less than the twilight zone of Connecticut. Collectors may wish to narrow their focus to certain denominations, types, countries, etc. I recommend that when you obtain a certain type that you place the grade in the box instead of a checkmark. This way you take the checklist with you and you will know if an upgrade is being offered to you. Generally speaking, Columbia is the rarest country and four reales is the rarest denomination of any country. Many of the coins in the checklist are more difficult to locate than an R-6 colonial.

References used for the checklist are:

- (1) *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 18th Century*, by Krause and Mishler
- (2) *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 19th Century*, by Krause and Mishler
- (3) *America's Foreign Coins* by Shilke and Solomon
- (4) *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation* by Philip L. Mossman
- (5) "A Guide to Collecting Latin American Pillar and Bust Coinage by Type," *C4 Newsletter*, Fall 2001, by Ed Sarrafian
- (6) Personal Notes from Richard August
- (7) Personal Notes from Louis Hudson

Spanish Colonial Milled Silver Coinage Checklist

	Bolivia	Chile	Columbia	Guatemala	Mexico	Peru
Philip V Pillar						
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
1	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
2	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
4	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
8	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
Ferdinand VI Pillar						
1/2	NM	NC	NM			
1	NM	NC	NC			
2	NM	NC	NM			
4	NM	NC	NM			
8	NM	NC	NC			
Charles III Pillar						
1/2		NC	NM			
1		NM	NM			
2		NC	NM			
4		NC	NM			
8		NC	NC			
Charles III Bust			NR / P	G / NO		
1/2				/		
1				/		
2				/ NM		
4			NM / NM	/		
8			NM / NM	/		
Charles IV Legend w/ Charles III Bust						
1/4 Bust	NM		NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2			NM			
1			NM			
2			NM			
4			NM			
8			NM			
Charles III Legend w/ Charles III Bust						
1/4 Bust	NM		NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2	NM		NM	NM		NM
1	NM		NM	NM		NM
2	NM		NM	NM		NM
4	NM		NM	NM		NM
8	NM		NM	NM		NM
Charles III Bust			ALL NR			
1/4 Bust	NM		NM	NM	NM	
1/4 Lion and Castle						
1/2						
1						
2						
4			NM			
8			NM			

	Bolivia	Chile	Columbia	Guatemala	Mexico	Peru
Ferdinand VII Legend w/ Charles III Bust			NR / P			
1/4 Lion and Castle	NM		NM / NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2	NM		/			
1	NM		/			
2	NM		/			
4	NM		NM / NM			
8	NM	NM	NM /			
Ferdinand VII Armored Bust						
1/4 Lion and Castle	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
1	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
2	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
4	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
8	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
Ferdinand VII Military Bust						
1/4 Lion and Castle	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
1	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
2	NM		NM	NM	NM	NM
4	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
8 w/o laureated head	NM		NM	NM	NM	NM
8 w/ laureated head	NM		NM	NM	NM	NM
Ferdinand VII Imaginary or Indian Bust						
1/4 Lion and Castle	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
1	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
4	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
8	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Ferdinand VII Normal Bust						Cuzco/Lima
1/4 Lion and Castle	NM	NM	NM			NM /
1/2		NM	NM			NM /
1		NM	NM			/
2			NM			/
4		NM	NM			NM
8			NM			/
Ferdinand VII Mexico Branch Mints	Chihuahua	Durango	Guadalupe	Guamajuato	Zacatecas	
1/2	NM			NM		
1	NM			NM		
2	NM					
4	NM			NM	NM	
8						

	Bolivia	Chile	Colombia	Guatemala	Mexico	Peru
Charles III Inverted Mintmark Mexico 1772-73						
1/2 FM	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
1 FM	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
2 FM	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
4 FM	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
8 FM	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
8 MF	NM	NM	NM	NM		NM
Charles III Large Bust Type Guatemala 1790-91, Bolivia 1791-92, and Peru 1791-92						
1/2		NM	NM		NM	
1		NM	NM		NM	
2		NM	NM		NM	
4		NM	NM		NM	
8		NM	NM		NM	
Charles III Pointed Bust Type Peru 1791-93						
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
1	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
4	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
8	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Charles III Normal Bust Type Peru 1791-93						
1/2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
1	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
2	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
4	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
8	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	
Ferdinand VII Small Bust Type Guatemala and Peru circa 1811-12						
1/2	NM	NM	NM		NM	
1	NM	NM	NM		NM	

Notes:

1. G is the old Guatemala mint before destruction by an earthquake.
NG is the new Guatemala mint.
NR is the Nuevo Reino mint.
P is the Popayan mint.
NM is not minted.
NC is non-collectible (for most collectors)
2. Peru has two types of Charles III 1/4 real - one w/ LME and one w/ 1/4.
3. Some of the earlier Peru Ferdinand VII Imaginary Bust coins have FERDND instead of FERDIN.
4. Some Lion and Castle 1/4 real coins have a larger lion than others.
5. Many spelling errors exist on Spanish Colonial coins.
6. Many overdates exist on Spanish Colonial coins.

THE POINT OF IT ALL

(David Townson)

I've been collecting copper exclusively for approximately 20 years and something unusual happened recently. Admittedly, I've not been a prolific contributor to our publication, but I avidly read every word written by my fellow members and I appreciate the effort, and look forward to each issue of our journal. Here is my attempt to give back a little, and I hope it is interesting.

My focus in colonials has been generally broad, but with a certain focus on Connecticut, and lately, New Jerseys. About three years ago my son, now approaching 11 years of age, became interested in collecting Jefferson nickels from pocket change. I picked up a current Whitman album and so it began...

It wasn't long before we were making Saturday morning trips to our bank picking up \$20 in nickels, followed by commandeering the kitchen table and spreading out our treasure. Naturally we soon picked up the rest of the Jefferson nickel albums (1938 – present) and followed in the same path as I'm sure many of you did in the past. As luck would have it we live in a small town and my son made some friends at the bank, and at his request they began saving him 'hand-rolled' nickels versus the 'machine-rolled' ones – this gave him a better chance of getting those 'early dates.'

Now, three years and many tens of thousands of searched nickels later, Ben is but one coin away from completing his set (a 1945-D) all from circulation. For some inexplicable reason I became interested in a subset of these nickels myself and after some investigation determined to build, via purchase, a set of the basic silver war nickels (no errors). Though this goal represents only 11 holes to fill I added a couple hurdles to make it a challenge – I wanted each coin graded by the same 'major' grading service, and I selected a grade of MS67 because, according to my initial research, this would prove to be a difficult task. So, while my son and I were searching 800 nickels a week I was keeping an eye on dealers' advertisements, eBay, and coin shows. It took me about 18 months of what I'd call 'semi-active searching' and I recently acquired the final coin.

Here is my point: It was an odd feeling driving home from the post-office with the package - I had completed the set! I had a few moments to enjoy this unusual feeling and then began to think about it. Yes I had completed the set...but now what? I had never completed any coin set before.

I began thinking: To be sure, my nickels are pretty, but they sit in their slabs - I can't hold them, I don't find myself wondering what history they've seen (sure they're kind of old, but how many times could they've changed hands and still retained this luster and surface – had they *ever* seen the light of day?). What do I do with them now? It got me thinking about the whole process.

It has taken me two full decades to form a pretty decent collection of Connecticut and I remember the circumstances of acquisition for many of them...this one cherry-

picked from a junk-box... this one bought from an old acquaintance now gone, etc. In contrast, my nickel acquisitions were simply cold 'transactions' – I never spoke with the sellers, never even met most of them except via email. Sure there were chat rooms sponsored by the grading service but I found little to engage me and I felt no personal connection. Unfortunately, due mostly to my job, I've missed the last couple C4 conventions – but what I really miss is not the copper (ok a little) but it's the people I crave. I have no memories – good, bad, or indifferent – associated with the nickel collection. But oh what memories I have from past C4 conventions!

With regard to the nickel "ownership experience" I have found it pretty boring – my nickels don't need me! They don't need to be cared for with a camel hair brush, moisture is not a concern, and I can even drop one on the floor with impunity. They are protected from the world, and more importantly, from me. I suppose in part the loss of the tactile experience – actually holding the coin and caring for it – was more important than I had imagined it would be.

The hunting experience was also different. While I feel confident in grading my copper I honestly can't tell the difference between MS66 and MS67. So I was in fact usually "buying the slab" unless the coin was toned in an unpleasant way. The only room for judgment on my behalf was occasionally in the price. While none of these coins approach a copper collector's definition of "rare," it seemed that the "rarity in grade" perceptions sometimes resulted in a wild swing in price expectations from sellers. At least a few times early on during my search I'd see a couple coins available simultaneously from different eBay sellers (same grade, same service) that looked exactly the same to me but at vastly different prices. This led me to create my own "fair price index" since I didn't really trust the information at hand. After I had seen a coin sell a few times at a certain price I figured that was the going rate and I was comfortable buying one myself. This process also helped me see which coins were easy to come by and which were not. Yes I checked population reports provided by the grading service and others too, but while some coins came along frequently, others were actually very few and far between. There was definitely an element of work required to get myself somewhat educated. I was pleasantly surprised that one or two pieces were actually scarce in terms of grade at least, and filling these holes took a while. Of course, copper prices are far from standard too, but it's not often that you have the chance to buy two identical varieties of the same colonial in the same grade at the same time.

I'm not sure what led me to dabble in this alternate universe of high grade 20th century coins, but maybe it's because I've kind of hit wall with my CTs...sure I can probably add the several more pieces I need to get me to the next big milestone, but I think I had started feeling that the end was near, at least psychologically, for me. It gets boring when you can only add 1 or maybe 2 pieces per year, not to mention that each piece is now costing much more than I would have ever imagined when I started this hobby. Furthermore, now that my annual copper expense has started to exceed that of my 401k contribution each copper purchase is becoming - I hate to say it - an *investment decision*. This bothers me quite frankly as it detracts from the fun aspect.

Sure, I might make some money on certain colonial coins when I sell them someday, but I don't want to have to count on it! I certainly don't want my last experiences in copper collecting being heavily influenced by the financial outcome. I've also just realized that I actually spend far more time managing my coppers and studying the field than I do managing my 401k....Hmmm now I'm getting confused. Financially speaking, the total 'nickel episode' cost less than \$1000 so the potential down-side has a modest limit if I've made bad decisions along the way, but if all C4 members wake up tomorrow and decide that collecting coppers is silly, the financial implications to me would hurt even though I've never counted on my collection financially. I guess it is impossible to ignore the potential value no matter how I try but I have to try and keep things fun or else this will become too much stress.

This diversion was an interesting experience, but in the end I seemed to have learned more about what it is I love about colonials. "Completeness" has no traditional place in my colonial world – and I'm fine with that. I will continue to try and rescue pieces from junk boxes, I'll make the collection as good as I can, and I'll take care of it for the next generation. And though I'll never come back from the post office with that strange feeling of "I did it, I'm done," I guess that is the reason why this hobby interests me so much. Importantly, I asked my son Ben recently "What are you going to do when you find that last nickel?" He thought about it carefully, and then said that he still wanted to make the weekly trip to the bank and continue the hunt even after that darn 1945-D is found. I'm glad because as you can expect I've grown to enjoy the process more than the outcome – I suppose we've both realized that the goal of "completeness" is not the goal at all.

Mike Demling reports that he has discovered a new, presently unique New Jersey 1786 date under plow beam copper. It appears to be a "d" reverse with a new obverse. (He then says "I don't think so.....wishful thinking. Still it an unusual fun piece.")



A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
COLONIAL NEWSLETTER
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

In mid-June, the August issue of the *Colonial Newsletter* (No. 143) went to press. Most subscribers have probably received it by the time they read this. For those who have not yet received it and especially for those who are not yet subscribers, we declare that this hefty issue consists of 70 pages and includes a major study of the NE silver by Jack Howes (C4's own Vice President for Region 4), further thoughts on the Standish Barry threepence in two notes by R. W. Julian and Max Spiegel (inspired by Max's previous articles in *CNL* 142 and the *C4 Newsletter*), and the first set of four 1:1 plates in a planned series to publish all of the colonial coins in the American Numismatic Society (see sample on the next page). These first plates illustrate and describe the first 10 coins in each of the Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts state copper collections. Full color editions of the plates will be available for sale separately on the ANS website (<http://www.numismatics.org/CNL/CNL>) as a means of funding future ANS publications on colonial subjects.

Work on the similarly large December issue (No. 144), which has been designated the official 50th anniversary issue, has already begun and will include such highlights as a retrospective of *CNL* and its past editors by Roger Moore and a sneak preview of the first chapter of Phil Mossman's new book on counterfeiting in the colonial period.

All of this should make it self-evident that if you do not already subscribe you are missing out on a lot of excitement and cutting-edge discussion of the coins that you care about most. A one-year subscription (3 issues) costs \$50.00 (much less than the cost of most colonial coins and related publications) for non-members of the American Numismatic Society. The subscription fee is reduced to \$35.00 for current ANS members. Subscriptions can be ordered online by credit card through the American Numismatic Society's webpage at <http://www.numismatics.org/CNL/CNL> or by contacting the ANS Membership Associate, Megan Fenselau, by email (membership@numismatics.org) or phone (212-5571-4470 ext. 117). A CD of *Colonial Newsletter* back issues in PDF format from serial number 104 to present is also available for \$50.00 on the same site or by contacting Megan. Information on ANS membership, which includes the reduced rate for *CNL* as well as a subscription to the *ANS Magazine*, which regularly includes features on colonial numismatic topics, can be found at <http://www.numismatics.org/Membership/Membership>.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the COLONIAL NEWSLETTER,
OLIVER HOOVER, EDITOR.

**VERMONT COPPERS IN THE COLLECTION OF
THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

**Plate I: Landscape Design, 1785–1786
(RR 2 to 8 / Bressett 1-A to 6-E)**



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



C4 AT THE SPRING 2010 EAC CONVENTION

The spring Early American Copper convention was held in Annapolis, Maryland on 21-25 April 2010. This convention has always presented an opportunity for colonial enthusiasts to get together and discuss their hobby. On Thursday night a "Colonial Happening" was held, at which members brought interesting items to discuss. Topics ranged from Voce Populi coppers to New Jerseys. On Friday, John Kraljevich conducted a well-attended walking tour of Annapolis, providing a historical commentary grounded in numismatics. Saturday morning saw our President, Ray Williams, presiding over a C4 meeting at which topics as far ranging as our upcoming C4 elections, the state of the hobby, and the various planned C4-sponsored publications were discussed. [Thanks to Neil Rothschild for providing photographs of this event.]



The Colonial Happening – Thursday Night



Walking Tour Conducted by John Kraljevich -- Friday



Ray Leads the Saturday Morning C4 Meeting

*****C4 ELECTION PROFILES*****

Candidates for C4 officer positions were invited to provide short profiles of their qualifications and "platforms" for inclusion in this Newsletter. Some have chosen to do so, and their submissions appear below. Editor

JIM ROSEN – Candidate for C4 President

My name is Jim Rosen and I am running for President of C4. A member of C4 since its inception, I have been involved with the publications of our four books and served as the Chairman of the Publications Committee since 1997.

What are my qualifications to be president? I am first and foremost very enthusiastic about colonial coins and their history. I have been a coin collector since age 11 and for the past 50 years have assembled a collection of colonial, Federal and English coinage. Non-numismatically, my strengths are organizational skills, communication skills, enthusiasm, the ability to delegate responsibility to people who are more knowledgeable than me, a commitment to hard work, and a firm desire to make this club grow and be cemented for the future.

What are my thoughts about what I'd like to do as President of your Club? I would certainly like to maintain the wonderful working relationships we have with Chris McCawley, the auction company that runs our C4 Auction. To maintain the strength of our club, we need to get more people involved. It doesn't have to be heavy-duty involvement, but I would like to see more people involved. It makes the camaraderie better, and allows you to make new friends in an arena we all love, numismatics.

New blood is one of the life lines to continued prosperity and in an effort to expand our youthful base, I would propose an initiative that I would like to see implemented whether I am elected or not. I would work hard to see the development of a Young Numismatist division of C4 and have individual members of C4 mentor a young numismatist encompassing all aspects of colonial numismatics. I can envision the mentor teaching the YN about all aspects of colonial coins. In other words, getting those young coin collectors passionate about our hobby.

A second initiative I would like to implement is the development of Numismatic Focus Groups. These groups would be responsible for keeping the members at large up to date with what is going on in a particular colonial series and the head of each focus group would write a small paragraph about the series in each Newsletter. I would envision approximately three or four individuals in each group with a "chairman."

Lastly, I'd like to start a mid-year C-4 convention in April/early May, thus having a convention approximately every six months. This would not only improve our over-all yearly attendance, but it would give members the opportunity to attend at least one or two conventions per year. By having two conventions per year, we can possibly attract new members to the convention who otherwise might never be able to attend the fall meeting. In addition, I would like to partner this convention with another coin show like we do with Bay State and thus consider the possibility of two auctions per year, possibly with an emphasis on colonial paper money, an area that has been neglected as of late.

Filling the shoes of Ray Williams is something that I won't be able to do, but I will do my very best to keep this club viable and true to its Vision and Mission statements.

Jack Howes – Candidate for C4 National VP

I am running for this position because I have been a C4 member now for about 7 years and hope to be able to guide the organization into new directions. I am currently Mid-west regional VP. As I now have more time, this is a good time for me to get more involved in the direction of the organization. I would like to see some new programs/work done on Metallurgy and Colonial numismatics. To that end I have been working with Peter Gaspar on the submission of a National Science Foundation grant proposal to validate usage of time of flight (TOF) neutron diffraction (ND) as a tool for non destructively quantifying the interior of metallic objects. I have been associated with General Motors and General Motors Research Laboratories for the last 30 years. I have considerable background and expertise in scientific computation. My interests in numismatics are currently New Jersey state coinage, New England silver and Machin's Mills coppers. I have written a number of articles for the *C4 Newsletter* and for the *Colonial Newsletter*. I have a new article in the August issue of the *Colonial Newsletter* that will be of interest to many of you. I reside in the Detroit area but have been to all C4 National conventions for the last 6 years. I enjoy working with all of the members of this organization and hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Charlie Rohrer – Candidate for Treasurer

Although I have been a member of C4 since 1994, it wasn't until I attended my first C4 convention in 2006 that I realized what a great group of people C4 members are. Our club membership is very diverse in backgrounds, but there seems to be a common thread of enthusiasm for our hobby and willingness to share information with fellow members.

I am very proud to be a member of this organization and especially proud to serve as Treasurer. As such, I intend to continue to keep the club's membership records up-to-date by entering members' changes of address and dues receipts of current and new members, mailing "Welcome Letters" to new members, generate labels for the mailings of the Newsletter, oversee the club's financial transactions, maintain appropriate financial records and ensure the club complies with all necessary annual filings. I also intend to research software programs that I can apply to more easily accomplish my duties.

I look forward to being involved as Treasurer for the next two years and serving the members of C4. And I look forward to seeing everyone in Boston later this year.

MICHAEL WIERZBA – Candidate for Region 1 Vice President

Many members of C4 may recognize my last name, as my father, Dennis, has played a prominent role in the club from the start. The first C4 auction in 1995 brought my first live auction win. In 2001, after studying most of the colonial series until my catalogs were falling apart, I decided that nothing in my life made me happier than working with and studying these old copper coins. I became a full time independent dealer in 2004, starting New England Rarities. I have worked with many new and old friends over the past seven years, and met many of you at prior C4 conventions.

Unlike some other organizations, C4 is a close-knit community where research and knowledge rule. C4 publishes its highly regarded *Newsletter*, holds a convention every year with a well attended auction, publishes great books by terrific students of many series, and has an extremely active online message board where monthly posts have topped 1000! These are just a few reasons why I personally feel that C4 is the best club in the hobby; and, I hope to do my part to make sure it stays at the top.

While I may be young at 28 years old, I have known most of the current members for over 15 years. Many in the membership have watched me grow from teenager to adult, not only in coins but in life as well. I have always felt the Board of our club makes very important decisions with the goal in mind to represent all of the membership. Living near Boston, I am lucky to be very close to many C4 members and attend almost all the major conventions held all over the country. I have always been willing to go the extra mile, even not selling a colonial coin to a customer until they joined the C4 ranks! If elected to the Board, I vow to do everything I can to help make the C4 club even better and to be available to the membership for any questions or concerns they may have.

RANDY CLARK – Candidate for Region 6 Vice President

My interest in participating as a C4 regional representative comes from a desire to get more involved in the club and to help keep visibility of colonial coppers high in California and Hawaii. This ongoing interest in colonial copper (and New England glass) comes from being raised near New Haven and studying at UConn. Living in Northern California for some 30 years now, I find it easy to feel isolated from colonial hobbies. Communication through Yahoo sites, C4N, CNL and other organizations seems to form a big part of staying involved on a routine basis. The major coin show in the state with a consistent colonial dealer presence (Long Beach) is not easy to attend for those outside the LA area. A smaller San Francisco Bay area show (Santa Clara) provides an alternative venue, but a substantially smaller colonial presence. And the Boston C4 Convention, while highly recommended as well worth the trip, may not be consistently possible for many west coasters.

Given this perspective, I would like to explore ways to keep the CA/HI state members in contact with their hobby between coin shows. Using email is a start, to ensure local members know others are around. Additional tools may be Yahoo or Google sites for regional focus ... perhaps a regional newsletter ... we'll see what CA/HI members feel would best meet their communication needs. There is quite a bit of colonial collecting depth in CA/HI that may not be visible to all regional C4 members. It is important for the club to keep people feeling connected with their hobby.

****THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CORNER****

FRENCH MEDAL OF WASHINGTONIANA INTEREST

(Syd Martin)

I acquired a relatively modern medal of interest to Washingtoniana collectors. It was issued by the Company General Transatlantique (The French Line) in honor of their liner, the *De Grasse*, which was built in 1924. Following the end of WWII, she was instrumental in re-establishing the French Line. This bronze medal, designed by M. Delannoy, is from the post-war period.

Admiral De Grasse commanded the French fleet that destroyed that of the British at the Battle of Chesapeake, contributing heavily to Washington's later victory at Yorktown. Of particular interest is that the Admiral is shown wearing the badge of the Society of the Cincinnati! The Society was created in 1783 by American and French officers who served in the Revolutionary army, with the purpose of keeping the ideals of the Revolution and their fellowship, intact – George Washington was elected their first President.



The De Grasse
Medal



The original box of
issue and a closeup
of the Order of the
Cincinnati.

Don Hartman sent in this amusing article he found in a Pennsburg, Pennsylvania newspaper dated December 29, 1900:

FIVE DOLLARS FOR ONE CENT

Edward D. Reiter, of Hoppenville, sold one day this week an old cent dated 1799, to John Borkey, of Philadelphia, for five dollars. Mr. Borkey, is a traveling salesman for one of the largest grocery firms in this state, and is well known throughout this vicinity. He is also quite widely known as a collector of old coin, of which he now has an exceptionally valuable collection. The cent was one of the large copper series, which are now rarely seen in circulation. Mr. Reiter, received full market value for his old coin and feels highly pleased with the manner in which it inahnsed (*sic*) in value during his possession of it. It is too often the case that men who become possessors of coins of this kind do not know their value and allow them to pass through their fingers at their face value. Transactions of this kind often demonstrate the stearling (*sic*) worth of a man in business life, it shows that he is careful, thoughtful and looks into the value of the little things, and allows the big things to present their own value.

What happened to counterfeiters? Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants – 1661-1699*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1990, p. 709. Citing London's Public Records Office document C66/3412/7 for the date of 14 March 1699: "Cheshire prisoner reprieved to be transported to America: Samuel Knipe for coining." SFM

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your regional VP or the President of the Club, Ray Williams. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Gregory Heim	NJ
Peter Mosiondz, Jr.	NJ
Ronald Swerdloff	CA

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

C4 Hardbound Catalogues

I have had a number of inquiries about the availability of hardbound issues of the C4 auction catalogues for the past several years. I spoke to Chris McCawley during the C4 Convention and told him that I would contact the membership to determine the demand for such catalogues, and what we can do to meet it. I'd like those that collect the hardbound C4 Catalogues to note which auctions they are missing from Auction 9 (2003) to the present, and contact me. My contact info is in the front of this issue. We do have a few earlier issues but not many.

I will compile the needs of the members, contact Chris and get things moving. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible, but definitely within a month of receiving this issue.

The C4 Catalogues have become a valuable resource in all of our libraries. Several catalogues have become very collectable as the definitive works on such series as Machin's Mill, St. Patrick's, NJ Coppers, Connecticut, and others. They are packed with good information; for example, coins that might not attract attention in a major auction will sometimes have descriptions and information that are not in standard reference books. Thank you Chris and Bob for our auctions, and thanks to Mike Hodder, Tom Rinaldo, John Kreljevich, John Agre, Dave Wnuck, and any others that helped in the cataloguing over the years.

Ray Williams, President

C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following three books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis, Numismatic Literature, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984; Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: (978) 468 7893; email: numislit@aol.com.

- (1) Jordan, Lou. "John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002.
- (2) Vlack, Robert, "An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004.
- (3) Martin, Sydney. "The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007.

C4 Meeting will be held during the Summer ANA on Saturday at 8:30, an hour before the bourse opens – check the program for the room number. Also, we are planning a C4 meeting on the Saturday morning of the Whitman show in Philadelphia, but the details haven't been finalized yet...so you should check the show program for details. All are welcome at these meetings, which are more like a gathering of friends than a typical business meeting.

THE COPPER COINS OF VERMONT – AVAILABLE AGAIN

As a result of a small number of unbound copies of the Carlotto book having been located, a new binding has been prepared to make the book available after having been out of print for a number of years. The new binding, prepared by the Harcourt Bindery in Boston, is in a fine brown cloth, rounded spine, with the Vermont logo stamped in copper on the front board. Each contains a letterpress bookplate cast by the Firefly Press, also in Boston, which is numbered and signed by Tony Carlotto. A single page errata is also bound in. While otherwise textually identical to the original, it is a superior binding and adds the cachet of a signed bookplate. While we have begun selling the book to the general public, we have reserved the lowest numbers for C-4 members. The price is \$150.00 plus \$6.00 shipping.

A very small number of unbound copies was also reserved for two styles of numbered and signed leather bindings and are priced at \$550.00 and \$375.00, each plus \$8.00 shipping. Orders for all books should be sent to Charles Davis, Box 547, Wenham Mass 01984



C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently \$25.00 for Regular Membership and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the C4 Newsletter envelope. You may pay your dues for next year at the C4 convention in Boston, or mail a check (made out to "C4") to...

Charlie Rohrer
C4 Treasurer



Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes my job easier and is much appreciated!



The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob..http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfd5ZR~x~8=>

MEDALLIC PORTRAITS OF ADMIRAL VERNON – MEDALS SOMETIMES LIE

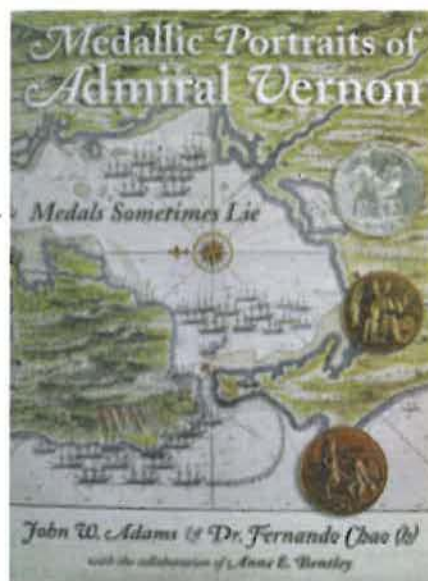
By John W Adams and Dr. Fernando Chao(h)
(With the collaboration of Anne E. Bentley)

Book review by Ray Williams

I received my copy of the *Medallic Portraits of Admiral Vernon* this past week and couldn't wait for the weekend to read it. The book is cloth bound hard cover, 240 pages, color dust jacket, nice thick paper stock, 9 3/8 x 12 1/4 inches.

The authors have succeeded in categorizing about 260 Vernon Medals and "Vernoniana." The die designations are given with an abbreviation for the type, a number for the obverse and a letter(s) for the reverse. Almost every die is illustrated with nice color photographs.

There are attractive color portraits and contemporaneous maps throughout the book. As stated on the dust jacket, a balanced history of the events leading to the issuing of Vernon Medals is very important. The British look at Vernon as a Naval Hero while the Spanish view him as a pirate. The authors have given what I perceive to be an unbiased historical account of the time period. Reading the history just brings these medals to life for me.



There is a useful bibliography in the rear, along with several appendices containing charts and additional information.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in the early history of the Americas or the medals that commemorate these events. The cost is \$100 postpaid in the U.S. and can be ordered from:

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C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Thank You to those who have checked their old auction catalogues and donated them to the library. There is still room for more. Take a look at what you have laying around and check it against the list shown on the club website. Any catalogues that are not already in the library will be greatly appreciated. Drop me an email and we'll add them to the library for all members to borrow. Remember, all catalogues that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section added to the library archive. Catalogues with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety.

The list of auction catalogues in the library is now about 500. One section on the website list contains the catalogues held intact. The other section contains the catalogues with only the Colonial content retained. Please look through both sections and see what you have to donate. I can also email you the list if you contact me. Please contact me if you would like to meet at a show to avoid having to mail them. Thanks

Below are new items donated to the club since the last *C4 Newsletter*. They are now available for loan by all C4 members. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org. Thanks to all who have donated items.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogues:

C4 Newsletter, Volume 1 No. 1 to Volume 13 No. 2 (Summer of 2005), original copies. - Donated by Don Meseth (former member of C4).

Stacks, *The Amherst & Waccabuc Collections*, 13- 14 November 2007, Baltimore, MD – Donated by Craig McDonald.

Coin Galleries, *Selections from the Estate of Louis E. Eliasberg Jr. and other important properties*, 28 April 2010, New York, NY – Donated by Craig McDonald.

Stacks, *The C.B. Slade Jr. Estate and Other Important Properties*, 15-16 June 2010, Baltimore, MD – Donated by Craig McDonald.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You, my E Mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at [REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$150	\$250	\$325	\$400	6" x 9"
1/2 page	\$115	\$190	\$250	\$300	6" x 4.5"

NOTE: THESE RATES WILL INCREASE BEGINNING WITH VOLUME 18.

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.



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Thanks to an ANS grant I am working on a study of circulating coins and currencies of the French and Indian Wars period (1689-1763). I would be very grateful for information on any American and Canadian metal detector finds dating to this period as well as any coins in collections that have find provenances attached to them. Contact: Oliver D. Hoover, [REDACTED]
Email: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca



I am interested in acquiring counterstamped Rosa Americana coins or photos of them. Unusual examples from this series are always of interest, including mis-struck examples. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. **I also need the Ford III maroon-covered hardback catalogue – will trade other Ford catalogues or buy.** Syd Martin: sfmartin5@comcast.net or [REDACTED]

Wanted: Early American communion tokens (for purchase or trade).
Bob Merchant, [REDACTED]

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I have for sale a small number of carefully selected colonial type coins, a fairly large number of Sheldon and Newcomb variety large cents, and an interesting array of numismatic literature. These coins, reference books, and auction catalogues came mostly from our C4/EAC dealer friends, national auctions, and a few cherry-picks. Check it out at www.johndirnbauercoins.com.

I encourage you to call me with a trial order to see if you like the high quality, accurate descriptions, and fair prices. Coins sent on approval to C4 and EAC members. I am a long-standing member of ANA, ANS, C4, EAC-571, NBS, and NENA.

John Dirnbauer; [REDACTED]

Email: john@johndirnbauercoins.com.



"Jeff Rock's Rosa Americana Fixed Price Lists:

Seeking Numbers 2,5 and 11 1/2 of Jeff Rock's Rosa American Price List to complete my set. Will pay any reasonable asking price. Please contact Roger Siboni at [REDACTED] or rogersiboni@gmail.com.

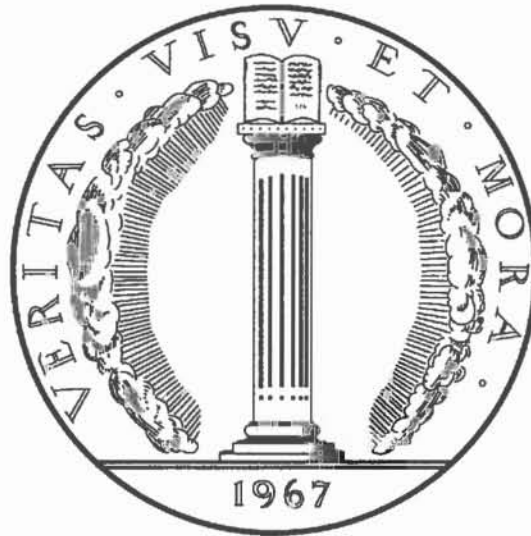
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2010 June Memphis Signature Currency Auction
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Consignment Deadline - April 30, 2010

2010 September Signature ANA Currency Auction
Boston, MA • August 8-15, 2010
Consignment Deadline - June 18, 2010

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